

Sub  
A2/

[illegible]

system characterized in that:

system connects with process

specified with no destination and

can change their states to either

system having:

process portion that stores the

ss portion; and

the process portion that stor

n

process portion in the first st

system according to claim 1 c

process portions share infor

tate process portion copies in

30

process portion and can ch

a first-state process portion t

the first-state process portion; and

a second-state process por

there is one process portion

[Claim 2]

A network system according to claim 1 characterized in that

second-state process portions share information about each other, wherein

one second-state process portion copies information about itself to the first-state



Sub A2

2025-01-17 08:00:00

[Claim 6]

the process portion has error detection means to detect a communication error.

A network system according to claim 6 characterized in that:

[Claim 8]

A network system according to claim 6 characterized in that:

a second-state process portion changes its state to the first state when the





Sub  
A2

# 2025

it is possible to send and receive only the message specified with a specific process portion between process portions in different groups.

A network control method according to claim 14 characterized in that:

[Claim 16]

a first-state process portion removes a second-state process portion from a

storage when the first-state process portion detects a communication error with the second-state process portion.

[Claim 17]

A network control method according to claim 11 characterized in that:

a second-state process portion changes its state to the first state when the second-state process portion detects a communication error with a first-state process portion.

[Claim 18]

A network control method according to claim 11 characterized in that:

a first-state process portion removes a second-state process portion from a storage when the first-state process portion detects no communication with the second-state process portion for a specified period of time.

[Claim 19]

A signal sender/receiver characterized in that the signal sender/receiver having:

message generation means that can at least generate a message specified with a specific destination and a message specified with no destination;

message analysis means that receive a transmitted message and analyze its contents;

state control means that change the signal sender/receiver to a first or second state depending on whether another networked apparatus is available or not and it is in the first or second state; and

storage means that can store information about the signal sender/receiver and other apparatuses;

wherein the signal sender/receiver changes to the second state and stores the only other first-state apparatus storing information about the signal sender/receiver when the other first-state apparatus is connected to the network,

and wherein the signal sender/receiver stores information about another second-state apparatus when the second-state apparatus is connected to the network.

[Claim 20]

A signal sender/receiver according to claim 19 characterized in that:

the signal sender/receiver copies information about itself to the only other first-state apparatus storing information about the signal sender/receiver and reads



information about another second-state apparatus stored in the other first-state apparatus as required when the other first-state apparatus is connected to the network.

[Claim 21]

A signal sender/receiver according to claim 20 characterized in that:

the signal sender/receiver copies information describing information for accessing other networked apparatuses to the other first-state apparatus and reads the information describing the access information stored in the first-state apparatus as required.

[Claim 22]

A signal sender/receiver according to claim 21 characterized in that:

the signal sender/receiver can mutually send or receive the message specified with a specific destination and the message specified with no destination when the signal sender/receiver is connected within a group of the first-state apparatus and a second-state apparatus storing the only first-state apparatus or can send or receive only the message specified with a specific destination from an apparatus in a different group.

Sub  
A2

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO**

[Claim 24]

the signal sender/receiver, when in the second state, transfers a message from a first-state apparatus in another group to a first-state apparatus in a group to which the signal sender/receiver belongs.

A signal sender/receiver according to claim 19 characterized in that:

[Claim 26]

39

